

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 18, 1998

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MARKEY APPLAUDS ACTION AGAINST MICROSOFT **Microsoft Windows Monopoly must not extend into Electronic Commerce**

WASHINGTON, DC - The following is the statement of U.S. Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Ranking Democrat on the House Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, on action taken today by the Department of Justice Antitrust Division with respect to the monopolistic actions of Microsoft Corporation:

"I applaud the Department of Justice for taking action against Microsoft and Antitrust Division Chief Joel Klein for his leadership on this important case. The action taken today is vitally important in order to protect free competition and an open marketplace. Future high tech job growth and innovation depend upon decisive action to break down monopoly bottlenecks in our information infrastructure.

"If information is the oil of the 21st Century, then Microsoft plans to be the Standard Oil of that century. This is a fight against "corporate cybercentrism" - an attempt to thwart the designs of a single company to set itself up in the center of cyberspace and to create new bottlenecks to competition. The Windows monopoly must not be permitted to stultify innovation, slow growth in electronic commerce, and undermine consumer choice as Microsoft attempts time and time again to extend that monopoly into other areas.

"It is clear given the designs of Microsoft, as well as the recent announcement by SBC Communications that it intends to merge with Ameritech, that trustbusters and regulators must remain ever vigilant in ensuring that the digital revolution fully benefits consumers and workers, and continues to be our engine for economic growth into the next century.

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